

City of Corunna  
Regular Council Meeting  
Tuesday, January 19, 1999

Present: Weaver, Bayless, Bendall, Dumond, Ockerman, Reid.

Absent: None.

Guests: Michael Moore; Dave Wenzlick; Officer Jim Moore, Police Department; Gary Schooley, Parks and Recreation Director; Chief Mark Hetfield, Police Department; Ross Stanley; Judy Horton; Dr. James & Dr. Kristie Billis; Jackie Leone, The Argus Press; Dawn Johnson; Scott Johnson; Deb Hoffman; Bill Constine, The Independent; and other concerned citizens.

The meeting was called to order in the City Council Chambers by Mayor Weaver at 7:00 p.m.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS REGULAR MEETING: Dumond moved, Bendall seconded to approve the January 4, 1999 Regular Council Minutes as printed.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Bayless, Reid, Bendall, Ockerman, Dumond.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

AGENDA APPROVAL: Ockerman moved, Reid seconded to approve the agenda as presented by moving Item No. 7) Closed Session – Labor Negotiations, Law Suit, and Sale of Property to Item No. 8 and replace Item No. 7) with Consider Adding Citizen In-put at End of Agenda.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Bendall, Dumond, Bayless, Ockerman, Reid.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

APPROVAL OF VENDOR DISBURSEMENTS: Bendall moved, Dumond seconded to approve the vendor disbursements as printed.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Ockerman, Dumond, Reid, Bayless, Bendall.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CALL TO AUDIENCE: Dave Wenzlick stated he was concerned about the sidewalk snow removal. He advised it took the city five days to remove the snow after the first snowfall and another three days after the most recent snowfall. Mayor Weaver advised Item No. 2 on the agenda would address the situation in more detail.

Ross Stanley stated he read a newspaper article that concerned the ambulance service. He further stated everyone is welcome to come to the ambulance board meetings. He also stated everyone at the ambulance facility has his telephone number. Mr. Stanley advised the ambulance board meets the third Thursday of every month and there is a portion of the meeting open to general comments.

Dawn Johnson asked if a council representative would be appointed to the ambulance board. Mayor Weaver advised yes, a representative would be appointed next month after the empty council seat is filled.

SECOND WARD COUNCIL SEAT: Michael Moore introduced himself. Councilperson Ockerman advised Mr. Moore was an extremely qualified candidate and thanked Mr. Moore for stepping up. Councilperson Reid agreed with Councilperson Ockerman's comment. Dumond moved, Reid seconded to appoint Michael Moore to the vacant Second Ward council seat, term to expire November, 1999.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Dumond, Ockerman, Bendall, Reid, Bayless.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

SNOW REMOVAL: Mayor Weaver advised there were two areas of concern regarding snow removal: 1) cleaning of snow in general within the city and 2) cleaning of sidewalks in the business district. Councilperson Ockerman agreed and stated the trunk lines need to be opened first. He advised the downtown area has no place to put snow and suggested shoveling the snow into the street and clearing the street before the next day. Mayor Weaver advised he spoke with the department of public works personnel and learned that the streets are the department's first priority. After streets, residential sidewalks are cleared. He further advised downtown sidewalks are cleared during the evening hours. Councilperson Ockerman advised residential sidewalks should be second. Dave Wenzlick stated the business area should be done first. The city is clearing snow backwards. Councilperson Dumond advised the city does not have the equipment to push the snow and stated that the city might need to purchase a snow blower. Dr. Billis advised snow was pushed onto the sidewalk and people could not get into the businesses. He further advised he would shovel the sidewalk himself, but snow cannot be shoveled into the street and asked where he should put the snow. Councilperson Reid suggested loading up one parking space with snow. Dr. Billis stated picking up snow and walking fifty feet took an entire day in order to get his business open. He further stated the businesses need an option if the situation happens again. Councilperson Reid advised the city was looking at purchasing a new bucket loader. Dawn Johnson advised the snow removal also made the ambulance service's job difficult in an emergency and asked why the city was not willing to help them during an emergency. Chief Hetfield advised the employees need to be sent home sometime. Mr. Wenzlick stated he was told that he could hire someone with a dump truck and front-end loader to clear his snow at his expense. Mayor Weaver stated the city's business owners have a right and obligation to shovel snow to the curb and when the city's crew come in, they can clear the snow away. He further stated the city has requested that the county road commission clear the parking lane, but there was a change in personnel and the new employee did not realize how the snow removal was done in the past. Dr. Billis asked if throwing snow in the street was a gray area. Mayor Weaver advised no, throwing snow in the street is against the law. Mr. Wenzlick advised he shoveled his snow into the street. Councilperson Ockerman stated there needed to be a reasonable solution. The department of public works cannot work 24 hours a day. Chief Hetfield advised there was also a broken water main that day that had to be taken care of. Dr. Billis asked what he could do if the city cannot clear the snow and asked to have his hands untied. Mayor Weaver suggested to Dr. Billis that he shovel the snow to the edge of the street and put a path through it. Councilperson

Dumond stated if a snow blower was placed on the Kubota, snow removal would not take as much time to blow the snow to the curb. He further stated he would like to see the snow blower purchased. He also stated the only question he had regarding the snow blower purchase was the charge for pickup and delivery. Mayor Weaver stated the charge might be negotiable. Reid moved, Dumond seconded to purchase the snow blower in the amount of \$2,469.06 from Alderman's and to pay the hourly charge for equipment pickup and delivery. Councilperson Bendall asked council if they wanted the sidewalks cleared the same night as the streets. Councilperson Reid suggested turning the residential sidewalk snow removal over to the residents. Councilperson Bendall advised council that they should tell the department of public works to change their priorities. Mayor Weaver advised the school routes should be done first. Dr. Billis asked if council was suggesting that the snow be blown to the curb. Councilperson Ockerman stated he did not care how the snow is removed as long as it was done that night. Dr. Billis offered his personal services to operate any equipment.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Reid, Ockerman, Bayless, Bendall, Dumond.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

Mayor Weaver stated the discussion that took place has established that council would like the downtown sidewalks cleared before the residential sidewalks. Councilperson Bayless advised he received a call from Al Fowler regarding the ambulance service plowing snow on his property. Councilperson Ockerman advised that Mr. Fowler needs to take the issue to the ambulance board. Dawn Johnson advised Mr. Fowler has never approached the ambulance board with his complaint. She asked if the ambulance board would get the ticket or if the person doing the snow removal would get the ticket. Chief Hetfield advised the ambulance board would get the ticket.

CONSIDER APPOINTMENT OF RICHARD WATERS TO THE CORUNNA HISTORICAL COMMISSION, TERM TO EXPIRE DECEMBER 31, 1999: Dumond moved, Bendall seconded to appoint Richard Waters to the Corunna Historical Commission, term to expire December 31, 1999.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Bendall, Bayless, Reid, Dumond, Ockerman.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER APPOINTMENT OF MARTHA LEWIS TO THE CORUNNA LIBRARY BOARD, TERM TO EXPIRE DECEMBER 31, 1999: Bendall moved, Reid seconded to appoint Martha Lewis to the Corunna Library Board, term to expire December 31, 1999.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Bayless, Reid, Bendall, Ockerman, Dumond.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR THE DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT  
AUTHORITY STREETSCAPE RENOVATION: Bendall moved, Reid seconded to  
approve the following resolution:

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR THE DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT  
AUTHORITY STREETSCAPE RENOVATION

WHEREAS, there exists a need to upgrade the Downtown Business District to better  
influence new business, and

WHEREAS, there exists a current Downtown Development Authority Master Plan which  
provides a vision for appropriate improvements that reflect a consensus of local values.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Corunna supports the  
Streetscape renovation for downtown Corunna.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Bendall, Dumond, Bayless, Ockerman, Reid.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS: Bendall moved, Reid  
seconded to appoint Frank Svrcek as acting Director of Public Works.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Ockerman, Dumond, Reid, Bayless, Bendall.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER ADDING CITIZEN IN-PUT AT END OF AGENDA: Bendall moved, Dumond  
seconded to add a second Call to Audience-Citizen In-put at the end of the agenda with  
no resident discussion being allowed during the meeting with a trial period of sixty days.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Dumond, Ockerman, Bendall, Reid, Bayless.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CLOSED SESSION – LABOR NEGOTIATIONS, LAW SUIT, AND SALE OF PROPERTY:

Bendall moved, Dumond seconded to leave regular session and go into closed session.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Bendall, Bayless, Reid, Dumond, Ockerman.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED Time was 7:58 p.m.

Bendall moved, Reid seconded to leave closed session and return to regular session.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Bayless, Reid, Bendall, Ockerman, Dumond.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED Time was 8:34 p.m.

No action took place during the closed session.

PRE-COUNCIL: Discussion took place regarding scheduling a budget workshop and February 8, 1999 at 5:30 p.m. was selected. Ms. Hitchcock will get pizza and pop.

Mayor Weaver advised the Legislative Conference is scheduled for March 16 & 17 with March 17 being the most important date of the two days.

COMMENTS: Councilperson Bendall advised she received a call from Corrine Butcher regarding ambulance charges that Mrs. Butcher had received. Mrs. Butcher received one transport charge for \$150.00 and another for \$300.00. She further advised a council representative is needed on the ambulance board. Councilperson Bendall asked who does the billing and how the bill breaks down. Councilperson Reid asked if Advanced Life Support helped with the first run. Councilperson Bendall advised Mrs. Butcher was told that morphine was used on both runs. Mayor Weaver advised there is an appeal process. Chief Hetfield advised the city does not own the ambulance service like the city does the fire department. The ambulance service does not receive its funding through tax mileage.

Councilperson Dumond advised Ingham is a non-profit organization and that Mr. Fowler was wrong.

Mayor Weaver advised he attended a Team 21 meeting and they are trying to get off a plateau.

ADJOURN: Dumond moved, Bendall seconded to adjourn.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Bayless, Reid, Bendall, Ockerman, Dumond.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED Time was 8:50 p.m.

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AVERY WEAVER, MAYOR

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YVONNE F. LONG, CITY CLERK